



# Parks Reserve Forces Training Area

# AFRICAN|THE|U.S. AMERICANS ARMY

## General Colin Powell

First black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



On Jan. 20, 2001, Gen. Colin L. Powell became the first appointed black Secretary of State. Before becoming Secretary of State, Powell served 35 years in the Army, achieving the rank of general and serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Powell began his

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## Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks

First black cadet brigade commander at West Point



Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, a U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduate of 1980, became the first black cadet in the school's history to be named cadet brigade commander (the top-ranking cadet). In this position, which is somewhat like the president of a college class, he led more than 4,000

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## Sgt. William H. Carney

First black Congressional medal of Honor Recipient



In 1863, Sgt. William Carney entered the military and became a member of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry. In July of that same year, Carney found himself in the fierce Battle of Fort Wagner. After being wounded, Sgt. Carney saw that the color bearer had been shot down a few feet away.

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## Cathay Williams

First black female to enlist in the Army



On Nov. 15, 1866, Cathay Williams enlisted in the Army using the name William Cathay. She informed her recruiting officer that she was a 22-year-old cook. He described her as 5' 9", with black eyes, black hair and black complexion. An Army surgeon examined Cathay and determined the recruit was fit for

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## Command Sgt. Maj. Evelyn Hollis

First black female command sergeant major of a combat arms unit



Command Sgt. Maj. Evelyn Hollis entered the Army in 1979 during a time of great debate over whether women should serve in combat units. She started her military career as an administrative specialist. In the 1990s, numerous opportunities began opening for women to serve in combat arms units. During

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## Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King

First female commandant of the Drill Sergeant School



On Sept. 22, 2009, Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King became the first female commandant of the Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The Clinton, N.C.-native said the appointment is ironic. The 28-year Army veteran enlisted in 1980, and she found herself going to the same school, she will now lead, three years later as a

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Who is Captain Les Williams?

To find out click here.



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